

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2004 - SB 1976

February 21, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Imposes certain requirements on the operations of alkaline hydrolysis facilities. Requires the operator of an alkaline hydrolysis facility to receive a permit from the Department of Health (DOH) for resomation of human remains that authorizes the resomation of a decedent. Requires the DOH to issue a refund of any fees associated with the receipt of a permit if an operator of an alkaline hydrolysis facility submits a sworn affidavit stating the operator has completed the resomation of human remains without charge.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Currently, there is a \$25 fee charged to funeral homes for cremation. The DOH would charge the same fee for those who opted for alkaline hydrolysis. No facilities in Tennessee currently offer this method of disposal.
- Any fiscal impact would involve a shifting of funds for those who were to choose alkaline hydrolysis instead of cremation; therefore, any fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.
- The Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers can accommodate inspecting any records utilizing existing resources; therefore, any fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all regulatory boards are required to be self-sufficient over any two-year period. The Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers experienced a surplus of \$132,889 in FY17-18, a deficit of \$148,559 in FY18-19, and had a cumulative reserve balance of \$1,088,701 on June 30, 2019.

IMPACT TO COMMERCE:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumption:

- Operators of crematories are authorized to utilize any professionally accepted process, not only the heating process of combustion; therefore, any impact on commerce or jobs in Tennessee is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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